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The Graying of Rural America

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"The Graying of Rural
America"

Pages 52-55

by Carolyn C. Rogers

For more information, contact

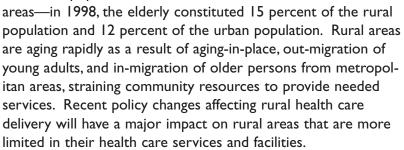
Carolyn C. Rogers at crogers@ers.usda.gov

http://www.ers.usda.gov

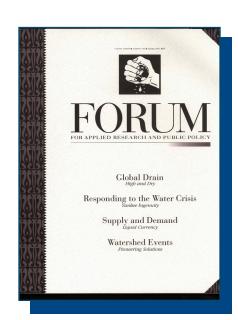
The U.S. population is

aging, and the growth in the number of older persons will have a significant impact on social and policy issues.

Throughout the Nation, rural areas generally have a higher proportion of older persons in their total population than urban



This article finds that the aging of the population has wide-ranging consequences for rural communities. Rural areas are diverse in terms of their socioeconomic conditions. Rural retirement areas are benefiting from growth, as in-migrating retirees boost the tax base and help sustain local businesses. On the other hand, farming- and mining-dependent rural areas have been losing younger working-age persons and experiencing declining populations and tax bases. The remaining older population has become an ever-increasing proportion of the population, increasing demands for medical and social services and long-term care. Policies and programs for the older population must take into account these rural differences.



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